

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 TRSE-00 (ISO) W

-----090046 200121Z /75

R 191755Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7867

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CONFIDENTIAL BONN 07350

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, GW, CH

SUBJECT: PROBABILITY OF PRC CONSULATE IN HAMBURG

REF: HAMBURG 471 (NOTAL)

1. THE FOREIGN OFFICE IS GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO A PRC REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO OPEN A CONSULATE IN HAMBURG (REPORTED REFTEL). ALTHOUGH DISCUSSIONS ARE STILL IN THE PRELIMINARY STAGE, OUR CONTACTS WOULD NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT AN AGREEMENT COULD BE SIGNED THIS YEAR TO ALLOW FOR A PRC CONSULATE IN HAMBURG AND AN FRG CONSULATE IN SHANGHAI ON EQUAL TERMS.

2. OUR CONTACTS IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE TELL US THAT THE FRG HAS LITTLE INTEREST IN OPENING A CONSULATE IN SHANGHAI. NEVERTHELESS, THE CHINESE ARE MOST INTERESTED IN HAMBURG AND, AT THIS STAGE, THE FOREIGN OFFICE IS NOT INCLINED TO ALLOW THIS TO BLOCK AN AGREEMENT WITH THE PRC. A LIKELY SCENARIO WOULD

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GIVE THE CHINESE PERMISSION TO OPEN IN HAMBURG WHILE THE FRG WOULD RESERVE ITS RIGHT TO OPEN ON AN EQUAL BASIS IN SHANGHAI.

3. OUR CONTACTS TELL US THAT THE HAMBURG SENAT HAS BEEN PUSHING HARD FOR A PRC CONSULATE SINCE 1973, OFTEN WITHOUT THE CONSENT OR KNOWLEDGE OF THE FOREIGN

OFFICE. HAMBURG IS ANXIOUS FOR THE PRESTIGE OF A PRC
PRESENCE WHILE THE CHINESE WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE
ACCESS TO NORTHERN GERMANY.

4. COMMENT: OUR WORKING-LEVEL CONTACTS COULD OFFER
NO EXPLANATION AS TO WHAT THE FRG HOPES TO GAIN BY
LETTING THE CHINESE INTO HAMBURG AT THIS TIME. WE
SUSPECT THERE IS OR WILL BE A QUID PRO QUO AND WE WILL
BE FOLLOWING THIS MATTER AS FRG CONSIDERATION
PROGRESSES.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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